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**Richmond Highway - Telegraph Road Connector  
Environmental Assessment and 4(f) Evaluation**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Thursday, September 7, 2006**

*6 - 7 PM Open House*

*7- 7:30 PM Presentation - Q&A*

*7:30- 9 PM Open House*

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**Mount Vernon High School Cafeteria  
8515 Old Mount Vernon Road  
Alexandria, VA 22309**

**Federal Highway Administration**



## ***TONIGHT'S SCHEDULE***

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- **6 - 7 PM *Open House***
- **7-7:30 PM *Presentation - Q&A***
- **7:30-9 PM *Open House***

***A Court Reporter is available to record your  
individual comments***

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# **WELCOME**

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- **3<sup>rd</sup> Public Information Meeting**

- **Meeting Facilitator:**

***Jack Van Dop, Project Director***

***Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division***

***Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)***

- **Purpose of Tonight's Meeting:**

- **Project Update**
- **Public Input on EA**
- **Next Steps**
- Opportunity for public to record comments on EA
- Opportunity for public to write comments on EA

## ***PRESENTATION AGENDA***

- **Project Description**
- **Purpose & Need**
- **Processes**
  - **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**
  - **National Historic Preservation Act**
- **Project Update**
- **Project Schedule**



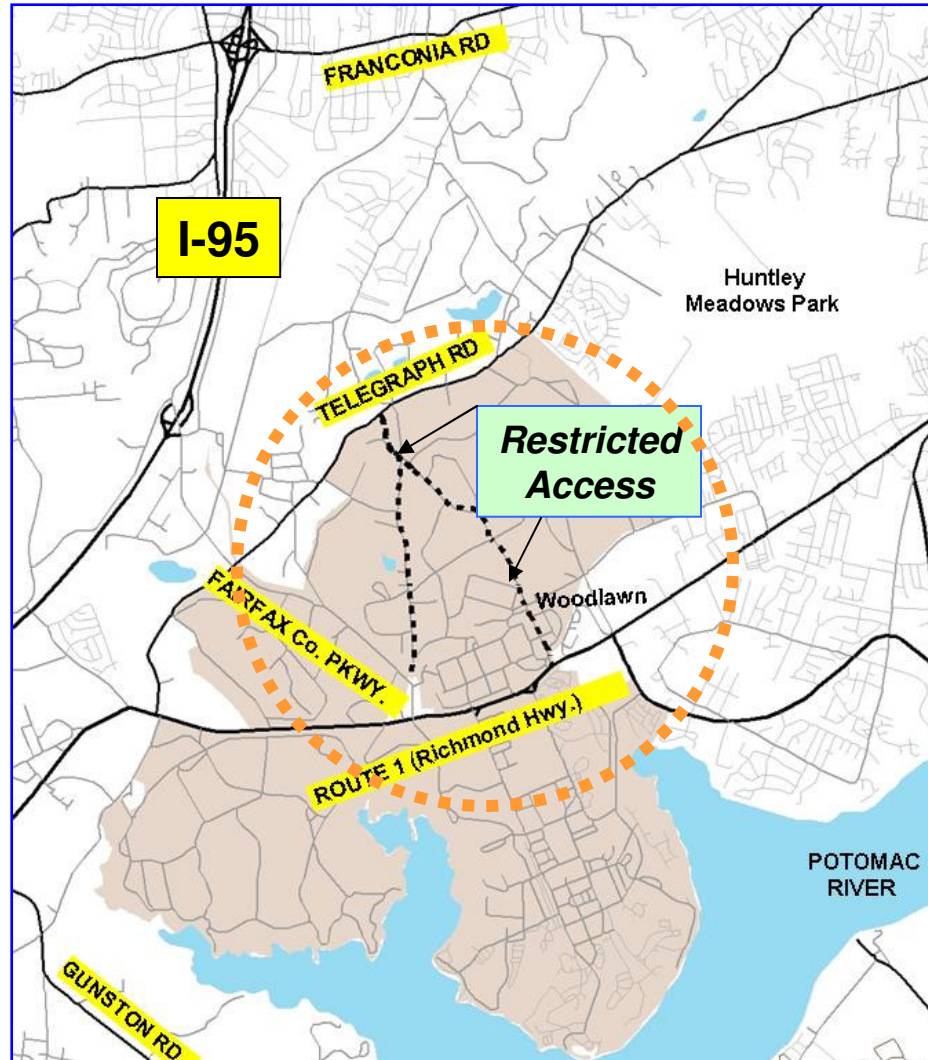


## **STAKEHOLDERS**




- **FHWA (Lead Agency)** 
- **U.S. Army**
  - Fort Belvoir 
  - Humphreys Engineering Center
  - Corps of Engineers – Baltimore District 
- **Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)**
- **Fairfax County**  
- **Citizen Task Force/Other Groups**

*FHWA Consultant: HDR Engineering, Alexandria, VA*

## *Richmond Highway - Telegraph Road Connector*



# **PROJECT LOCATION**

-  **Fort Belvoir Boundary**
-  **Study Area**
-  **Major Roads**

## ***PROJECT DESCRIPTION***

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- **Restricted Access After 9/11/01**  
*Closure of Beulah Street and  
Woodlawn Road to General Public*
  - **Continued Requirement for Enhanced  
Security thru Fort Belvoir**
  - **Project Purpose & Need:** Replacement  
Connection for General Public
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## *Richmond Highway - Telegraph Road Connector*



# **STUDY AREA**

- Study Area Boundary
- Closed Roads
- Fort Belvoir Boundary

## ***PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Cont.)***

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- **Early Potential Alternative Corridors**
  - Feasibility Study (7 alternative corridors)
  - Subsequent recommendations
- **Alternative Corridors (A thru D)**
- **Additional Alternatives**
  - Road corridors    - TSM / TDM
- **Termini Locations:** Telegraph Rd. & U.S. Route 1



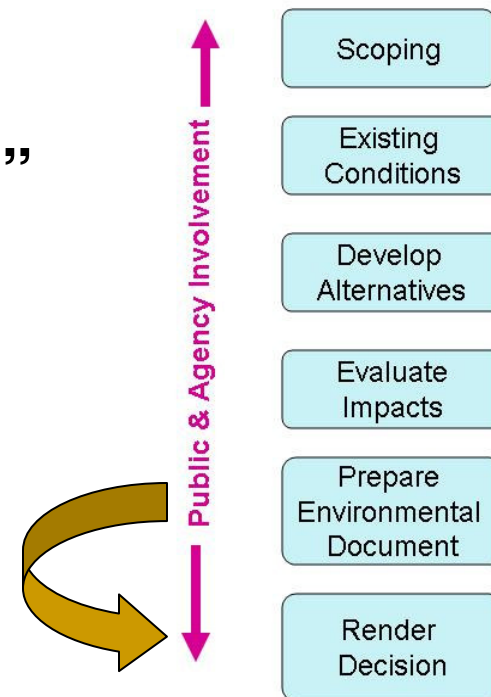
## ***PREVIOUS STUDIES***

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- **Preliminary Feasibility Study, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, November 2003**
- **Fort Belvoir Real Property Master Plan – Long Range Component**
- **VDOT and Fairfax County - Traffic Studies and Road Construction Plans (e.g., *U.S. Route 1 Corridor C*, and *Telegraph Road Widening*)**

## NEPA PROCESS

- Guiding Regulation for Study
- Requires an examination of alternatives, including “No-Build”
- Environmental Impacts  
**Avoid      Minimize      Mitigate**
- Document Type: Environmental Assessment (EA)
- Decision Document Completes the NEPA Process



## ***OTHER ACTS, REGULATIONS***

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- FHWA Technical Advisory T6640.A
- CEQ Regulations
- Section 4(f) US DOT Act of 1966
- Sections 106 and 110 of the  
**National Historic Preservation Act**
- Uniform Relocation Assistance Act
- Clean Water Act (Section 404)
- Executive Orders (e.g. Environmental Justice, Floodplains, Wetlands)



## **Section 106 Process**

### ■ Consulting Parties

- ❑ Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources (DHR)/ State Historic Preservation Office
- ❑ Fairfax County Architectural Review Board
- ❑ Fairfax County Dept. of Planning & Zoning
- ❑ Fairfax County History Commission
- ❑ Fairfax County Dept. of Transportation
- ❑ Gum Springs Historical Society
- ❑ Gunston Hall
- ❑ Historic Mount Vernon
- ❑ National Trust for Historic Preservation
- ❑ Pohick Church
- ❑ Quaker Friends Meeting House
- ❑ US Army - Defense Access Road Program
- ❑ US Army Garrison - Fort Belvoir
- ❑ VDOT – Northern Virginia
- ❑ Woodlawn Plantation - National Trust for Historic Preservation
- ❑ Woodlawn Baptist Church
- ❑ Concerned citizens
- ❑ Woodlawn United Methodist Church



## ***PROJECT UPDATE***

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- **Public/Citizens Input**
- **Air and Noise Technical Memo's**
- **Section 106 Coordination**
- **Development of the Cultural Resources Report**
- **Natural Resources Coordination w/ Fort Belvoir**
- **Field Work - HazMat, Wetland Delineation, Habitat**
- **Additional Engineering**
- **Environmental Assessment/Section 4(f) Evaluation**

**PROJECT UPDATE**

***PUBLIC COMMENTS***

***From October 24, 2005 Meeting***

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- BRAC should be considered in EA
  - Project cannot wait for BRAC decisions
  - Preference for Alternative C
  - Additional Traffic/Congestion concerns at Pole Road, Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, and Telegraph Road
  - Typical section (width of roadway) and configuration of intersections at southern and northern termini
  - Avoid environmental impacts Huntley Meadows Parks, floodplains, or other wetlands
  - Avoid impacts to Cultural Resources
  - Include potential rail study in coordination efforts
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**PROJECT UPDATE**

***Other Projects - Coordination***

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- **National Museum of the US Army**
- **Potomac Heritage National Trail**
- **U.S. Route 1 safety improvements**
- **Telegraph Road Improvements**
- **Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)**
- **Fairfax County Transportation Plan Update**

**PROJECT UPDATE**  
***Historic Preservation***

- Woodlawn Plantation is a National Historic Landmark, highest federal designation
- FHWA prepared a *Cultural Resources Report*
- Consulting Parties process has been undertaken to develop a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)
- MOA would define strategies to avoid a property, minimize project impacts, or mitigate adverse effects
- Additional Archeological Survey efforts planned



**PROJECT UPDATE**  
***Field Work***

- **Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat**
- **Wetland Delineation**
- **Hazardous Materials**
- **Site Visits**
- **Input to engineering considerations**



**PROJECT UPDATE**

***TRAFFIC DATA***

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- **Traffic Analysis and Forecast**
  - ❑ **Coordinated with VDOT and FCDOT**
  - ❑ **Connector does not alter volumes on Mount Vernon Memorial Highway**
  - ❑ **Connector does not alter volumes on U.S. Route 1**
  - ❑ **Connector does not alter volumes on Telegraph Road towards Beulah Street**

***Project Purpose & Need: Replacement Connection for General Public between U.S. Route 1 & Telegraph***

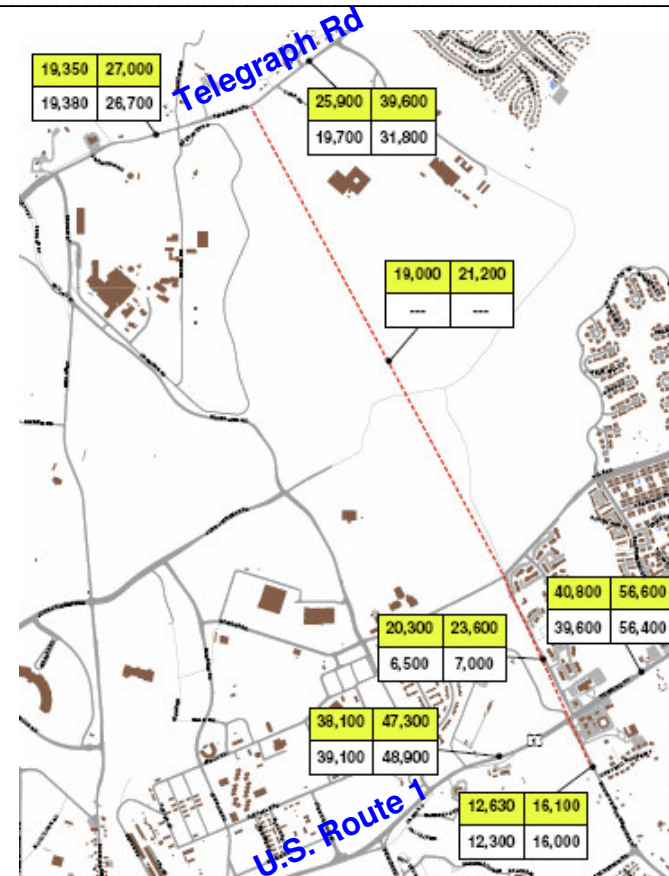
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## Richmond Highway - Telegraph Road Connector

### PROJECT UPDATE

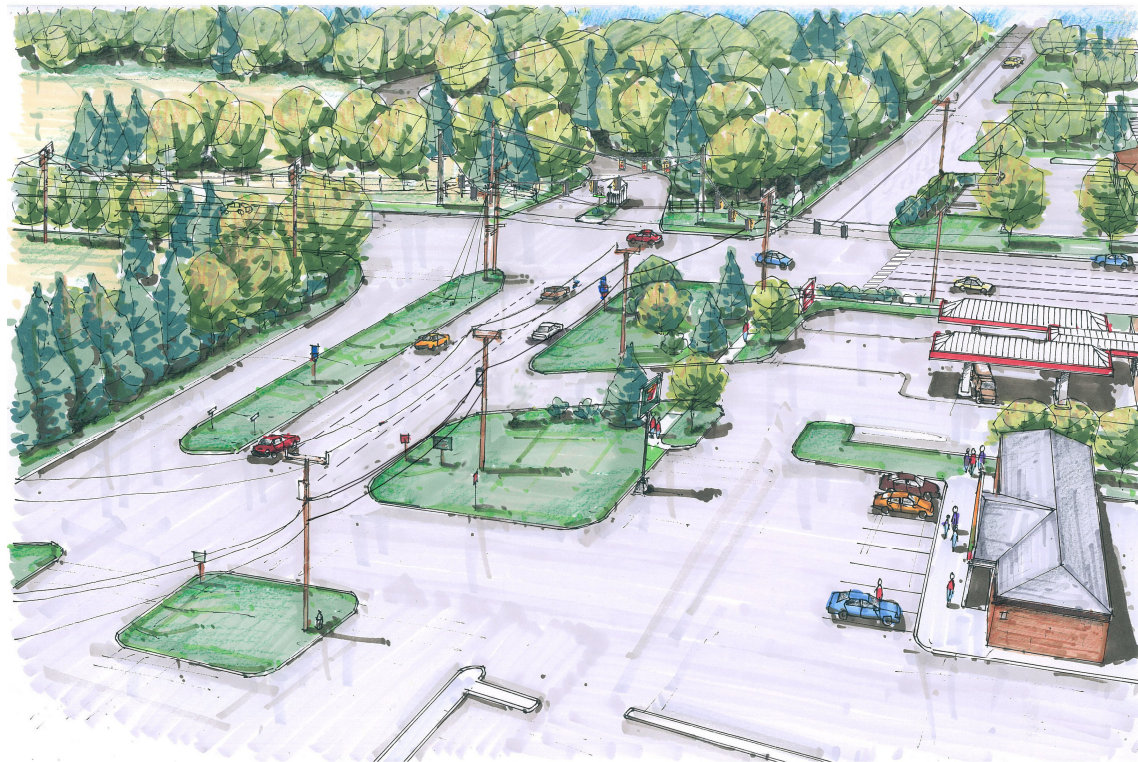
# TRAFFIC DATA





**PROJECT UPDATE**

***U.S. Rte 1 Intersection - Existing***



*Richmond Highway - Telegraph Road Connector*

**PROJECT UPDATE**

# ***U.S. Rte 1 Intersection - Concept***





**PROJECT UPDATE**

# ***U.S. Rte 1 Intersection Concept***

- **VDOT, FCDOT, and FHWA concerns for Levels of Service**
- **“Gateway” to historic district**
- **Benefits of aligning of Mt. Vernon Highway with Old Mill Road for traffic operations**
- **Context sensitive solution with improved pedestrian/bicycle access**
- **Woodlawn Plantation entrance would be relocated**



**PROJECT UPDATE**

***Citizens Task Force***

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- **Citizens Task Force Established after 1<sup>st</sup> Public Mtg.**
- **Formed by Supervisors Hyland and Kauffman**
- **Eight members from local area**
- **Task Force briefed and provided feedback on Project Activities**
- **Six meetings conducted**
- **Reviewed mock-up EA in May 2006**

**PROJECT UPDATE**

**ROADWAY DESIGN**

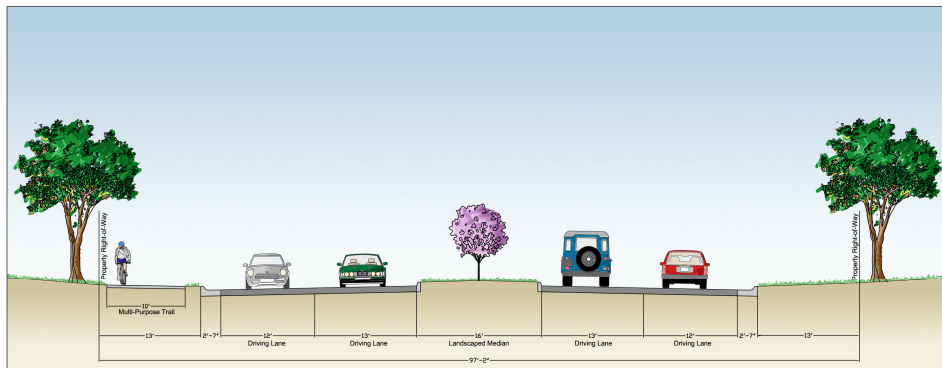
- **4-Lane Road to Replace Two 2-Lane Roads**
- **Roadway Type**
- **Secure Roadway through Fort for Public**
- **VDOT Owned and Maintained**



# ***ROADWAY DESIGN OPTIONS***

## ■ **“Typical Section”**

- ❑ Urban vs. Rural
- ❑ Typical width
- ❑ Bicycle/Pedestrian Paths
- ❑ Amenities, i.e. Lighting



Possible Example: Telegraph Rd

## **COMPLETED TASKS**

- ✓ **Study Area Definition**
- ✓ **Independent review of USACE *Preliminary Feasibility Study***
- ✓ **Agency Scoping Meeting; Agency Stakeholder Meetings**
- ✓ **Public Meeting #1 – February 2005**
- ✓ **Data Collection, Mapping and Resource Identification**
- ✓ **Resources Field Work**
- ✓ **Initial Traffic Analysis; Future Year(s) Traffic Model**
- ✓ **Candidate Alternatives Review**
- ✓ **Existing Conditions Report**
- ✓ **Section 106 Historic Consultation Initiation**
- ✓ **Public Meeting #2 – October 2005**
- ✓ **Traffic Forecast Report**
- ✓ **Revised Alignment & Preliminary Engineering**
- ✓ **Cultural Resources Report**
- ✓ **Environmental Assessment/Section 4(f) Evaluation**

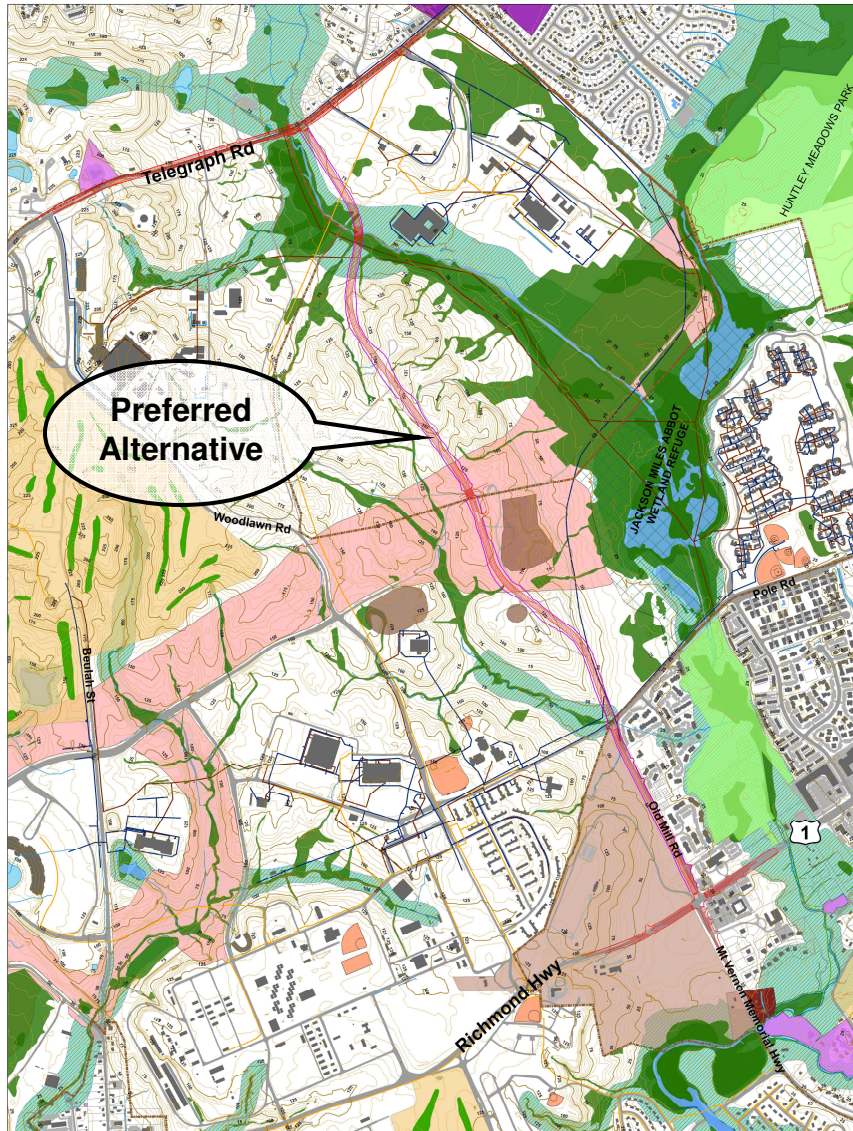
**PROJECT UPDATE**

# **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

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- **Recommends a Preferred Alternative**
  - **Appears No Significant Impact**
    - No residences taken
    - No direct wetland impacts (all spanned)
    - No impacts to Community Services and Facilities
    - No impacts to threatened and endangered species
    - Non-significant impacts to the Forest and Wildlife Corridor
    - Mitigation for adverse affects to Cultural Resources
  - **Agency and Public Comments due Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>**
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*PROJECT UPDATE*  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSESSMENT**

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## Impacts and Mitigation

- Land Use, Plans and the Visual Environment
- Natural Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Physical Environment
- Socioeconomics and Community Resources

*See handout for summary*

## ***PUBLIC NOTICE EFFORTS AND E.A. DISTRIBUTION***

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- EA and Section 4(f) Evaluation mailed 7/31/06
  - EA mailed to interested parties including federal, state and regional agencies; local entities; Citizens Task Force Members; and Section 106 Consulting Parties
  - Public Review Copies of the EA available at regional libraries 8/4/06
  - Public Notice in area newspapers:
    - Washington Post 8/1/06
    - Washington Examiner 8/17/06
    - Mount Vernon Gazette 8/23/06
    - Mount Vernon Voice 8/23/06
  - EA and Section 4(f) Evaluation made available on the internet 8/4/06
  - Mailing list of over 600 individuals sent newsletter/invitation
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## ***NEXT STEPS***

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- **Obtain and consider public comments on EA**
- **Continue Preliminary Engineering for mitigation measures**
- **Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement**
- **Decision Document**

## ***PUBLIC INPUT***

- **Issues & Concerns**
- **Comments**
- **Participate this Evening**
- **Mail in Comments by Sept 18<sup>th</sup>**
- **E-mail to: [jack.j.vandop@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:jack.j.vandop@fhwa.dot.gov)**
- **Web site for project updates:**  
***[www.efl.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/active\\_projects\\_rhtrc.htm](http://www.efl.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/active_projects_rhtrc.htm)***



## **PROJECT SCHEDULE**

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<b>Project Start-up</b>	<b>Oct. 2004</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Public Information Meeting</b>	<b>Feb. 2005</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Public Information Meeting</b>	<b>Oct. 2005</b>
<b>Release NEPA Document</b>	<b>July 2006</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Public Information Meeting</b>	<b>September 2006</b>
<b>Decision Document</b>	<b>Winter 2006</b>

### ***If the Build Alternative is selected:***

<b>Design/Permits/Right-of-Way</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>2008-2009</b>
<b>Connector Road Opens</b>	<b>2009</b>

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## ***PUBLIC INPUT***

- **We welcome your comments on the EA!**
- **Accepted until September 18<sup>th</sup>**
- **Contact Information:**

**Jack Van Dop, Project Director**

**Federal Highway Administration**

**Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division**

**21400 Ridgetop Circle**

**Sterling, VA 20166**

**Email: [jack.j.vandop@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:jack.j.vandop@fhwa.dot.gov)**

**Phone: (703) 404-6282**

***A Court Reporter is available to record your individual comments tonight***